

Remarks

The present response is to the Office Action mailed the above-referenced case on August 09, 2007. Claims 1-39 are standing for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, because the prior art of record does not teach the control system of the currently amended claim 13, comprising a plurality of nodes each having a plurality of physical ports, wherein bonds are defined for individual nodes using the ports specific to the nodes, and the control system comprises a plurality of first portions each specific to an individual one of the nodes, and a common second portion providing configuration input to the plurality of nodes.

6. Claims 25-39 are allowed as prior art of record does not teach the limitations as in amendment for managing links in data routing, the control system having a first portion recording availability status of the hierarchical bonds for routing of data by monitoring status either up or down of both logical and physical interfaces and ports of the at least one hierarchical bond, and a second portion providing configuration input for use in the monitoring by the first portion.

Merit Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

4. Claims 1-19,21-24 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Dobbins et al. [US Pat: 5,751,971]. (hereinafter Dobbins)

Examiner's rejection

Regarding claim 1, Dobbins et al. disclosed an apparatus and method in "Internet Protocol (IP) Work Group Routing", a communication system (router, item 11 of Fig 2)

having a plurality of physical communication ports (items 12A, 12B of Fig 2), a hierarchical bond (association of network and subnet levels, col. 5 lines 47-67) communication interlace comprising (col. 2, lines 41-63): a logical interface (IP interface) as a component of the bond at a top level (network/high level) of the hierarchy defining a plurality of data links (col. 3, lines 1-37), and a first subjugate logical interface at a second level (subnet/low-level IP interface, items 13A and 13B of Fig 2) of the hierarchy as a component of the top-level logical interface defining a portion of the data links as defined in the logical interface at the top level of the hierarchy (physical and logical interface associated with workgroups, col. 5, lines 47-67, col. 6, lines 1-28).

Regarding claim 7, Dobbins et al. disclosed a communication system (Router, item 11 of Fig 2) having a plurality of physical communication ports (items 12A, 12B of Fig 2, col. 2, lines 41-67, col 3, lines 1-37), a method for grouping ports in data routing (col. 2, lines 41-67), comprising the steps of defining a logical interface at a top level (high level network IP address) of a hierarchical bond by grouping a plurality of ports; defining a first subjugate logical interface (low level/subnet IP address) at a second level of the hierarchical bond as an element of the top-level logical interface by defining a portion of the plurality of ports as defined in the logical interface at the top level of the bond; and routing data by addressing the top-level bond (single IP address to many physical interfaces), which then uses logical and physical ports and interfaces of the hierarchy (IP and Physical addresses, col. 3, lines 1-5) for data transmission (Fig 2, col. 5, lines 47-67, col. 6, lines 1-28)

Regarding claims 13, Dobbins et al. disclosed a communication system, (Router, item 11 of Fig 2), a control system for managing links in data routing, comprising: one or more hierarchical bonds (association of network and subnet levels, col. 5 lines 47-67) comprising a logical interface at a top level including a plurality of data links; a first subjugate logical interface at a second level of the hierarchical bond as an element of the top-level logical interface (network/subnet IP interface, items 13A and 13B of Fig 2, col.

3, lines 1-37); a first portion recording (lookup table) availability status of the hierarchical bonds (status, item 36 of Fig 3), for routing of data by monitoring characteristics of both logical and physical interfaces and data links of the hierarchical bonds (col. 10, lines 9-65) and a second portion providing configuration input for use in the monitoring by the first portion (Figs 2-6, col. 6, lines 1-67)

Applicant's Response

Claims 1-6 are herein canceled.

Regarding claim 13, applicant herein amends the claim to incorporate the subject matter of depended claim 20, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, claim 13, as amended, is now patentable over the art of Dobbins. Claims 14-19 and 21-24 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as dependent from a patentable claim. Claim 20 is herein canceled.

Regarding method claim 7, applicant herein amends the claim to incorporate the subject matter of claim 20, indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Claim 7 now reflects the method of system claim 13. Therefore, claim 7, as amended, is patentable over the art of Dobbins. Claims 8-12 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

Claims 25-39 are allowed.

Summary

As all of the claims standing for examination have been shown to be patentable as amended and argued over the art of record, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, and that the present case be passed quickly to issue. If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this response, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534

Respectfully Submitted,
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